

The Journal Register

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COVID CRISIS RESPONSE

Lions need donations to help residents in need

By Michael Harrison
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MONSON — Timing is everything.

In the same week Gov. Charlie Baker tightened restrictions on businesses in response to a new wave of COVID-19 cases, the Monson Lions Club is hoping to bolster the Community Aid program it launched a couple of months ago to help area residents impacted financially by the pandemic.

Last month, the Monson Lions helped more than 30 local families in danger of going hungry. They used money raised at an October benefit concert to assemble packages of non-perishable food that were distributed at the Brimfield Senior Center. The nearly \$3,000 raised is just about depleted and the club is in a hurry to replenish the fund so it can help even more people in need.

“Our Community Aid program was started to aid the residents of Monson, Brimfield, Holland or Wales who need assistance due to the pandemic,” Ann Marie Decoteau, spokesperson for the Monson Lions said.

“Because our funds have been

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Peter J. Newland and Radio X performed at Brimfield Winery in October for a Monson Lions fundraiser. Proceeds supported a new fund the Lions created to help local residents impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

FUNDRAISER

Community rallies around local couple



A GoFundMe campaign is underway for Guy (left) and Cheryl Lucia (far right), who lost their house in a recent fire.

By Jonah Snowden
jsnowden@turley.com

WALES — After a chimney fire took the house of residents Guy and Cheryl Lucia, a GoFundMe campaign on their behalf seeks to help them get by until the couple can rebuild their home.

Rachel Gallant, a family friend and Guy’s coworker, set up the campaign on the popular fundraising platform. To Gallant, Guy is known to be hardworking and selfless and as stated on the GoFundMe page, he serves as a voice for Royce Lane residents.

Neither the Lucias nor their pets were harmed in the fire, but their house was destroyed.

“I was thinking when this happened, is what do you do for clothes for the next couple of months, until insurance decides what all of your stuff is worth?” Gallant said.

“Their vehicle was able to get out of the garage, before the rest of the house burned down, but I just wanted to start it for food, clothes and other stuff that they were going to need right away.”

The campaign looks to raise \$25,000 and will continue to accept donations after the goal is reached. At press time, \$5,405 had been raised, including anonymous donations ranging from \$50 to \$500. Any amount is accepted.

Wales Baptist Church also is helping the cause, asking members to contribute gift cards for the family. In a recent Facebook post, the church wrote, “We all know they’d never ask for help so let’s help them when they need it most. Guy (or Gary as those of us close to him know him by) is a volunteer in our little town, giving time he

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HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Shop virtually and support the Monson Library

By Jonah Snowden
jsnowden@turley.com

MONSON — The Friends of the Monson Free Library’s recent community effort — a virtual holiday bazaar — gives the public an opportunity to raise money for the library while shopping for unique gifts. It’s also a cyber showcase for local artists.

According to Friends Vice-President Gay R. Paluch, it’s an alternative venue for local artists who lost the opportunity to participate in the annual Monson Arts Council Fair because of COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.

“Each of these people was

willing to help the Friends by giving 10 percent of their [proceeds] to the library,” said Paluch, who added that there should be wide audience appeal because of the diversity of the artisans’ creations.

“There’s enough variety in what they’re selling to attract different people,” Paluch said.

The four local artists participating in the virtual holiday bazaar include Maureen Solomon (KMS Creations), Peter Mayberry, Tod Beall (Beall Glass Studio) and Penny Lewis. Beall Glass Studio offers stained glass panels and sun catchers, customer designs and rep-

MONSON LIBRARY | page 5



Staff at Hitchcock Academy got into the spirit of the season by decorating the lobby in Christmas decor.

COMMUNITY

Holiday events, toy drive at Hitchcock Academy

BRIMFIELD — This weekend kicks off Hitchcock Academy’s long list of Christmas festivities featuring lights, decorated trees, Christmas carols, crafts, photo opportunities, cookies, and cocoa.

The fun begins with to an appearance by Santa, who will read “Twas The Night Before Christmas” and musical performances, both outdoors from Hitchcock’s second floor balcony 3-7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12, and 1-5 p.m. Sunday, Dec.

According to Hitchcock Academy Executive Director Cindy Skowyrza, the goal of all the activities is to spread cheer while following COVID guidelines.

“The idea,” she said, “was to come up with ways to share the season; to make memories, and still keep within protocols.”

To that end Skowyrza and her staff of elves plan to take full advantage of trees and greens donated by Weston Tree Farm and Lacombe Family Tree Farm to “spruce up” Hitchcock inside and out

with an invitation for community members to come and use Hitchcock Academy as a backdrop for their holiday photos.

Throughout the season, Hitchcock Academy’s front porch will feature a Community Tree.

“This tree is special,” Skowyrza said.

“Other than lights, this tree will be decorated with personalized ornaments which will celebrate the present while honoring special people who have passed.”

For \$5, patrons can purchase one type of ornament in memory of a loved one. Or they can become a Hitchcock Star by purchasing a star ornament.

“The hope,” Skowyrza said, “is to have a Community Tree every year; adding new ornaments to the old and turning it into a Memory Tree as well as a Community Tree.”

This year, Hitchcock Academy is proud to be a Toys for Tots drop off location. Anyone

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HOLIDAY

Showing her Christmas spirit



Three Rivers resident Susan Lowell shows off her Christmas-themed front porch on Belanger Street.

By Jonah Snowden
jsnowden@turley.com

THREE RIVERS — Eager for Christmas, Three Rivers resident Susan Lowell brought some inflatable classic holiday characters, such as the Grinch, Santa, and the Gingerbread Man to the front porch of her home at 30 Belanger Street.

“I enjoy decorating my porch,” said Lowell. “I do it every year.”

IN THE SPIRIT?

Anyone interested in showcasing their Christmas-decorated homes can send high-resolution .jpgs and information to mharrison@turley.com.



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Turley Publications staff photos by Jonah Snowden
With a fresh order in-hand, Lori Lind, owner of Girly's Grill, is always ready to serve her signature dishes with a smile on her face.



Lori Lind, owner of Girly's Grill, at the drive-through window that helps keep orders moving while the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions how many customers she can seat inside.

BUSINESS IN THE AGE OF COVID

Girly's Grill: Homemade favorites and smiles for all

By Jonah Snowden
jsnowden@turley.com

PALMER – Upon entering Girly's Grill, the tasty aroma of bacon, eggs, burgers and other diner-friendly food is the first thing to greet you at the door.

Next is owner Lori Lind, always ready to serve every customer with a friendly attitude and a smile.

First established in Warren in 2003 and relocating to Palmer in 2008, Lori said the inspiration behind Girly's Grill came from her mother, Barbara Lind, who ran her own diner, "The Tin Man," in Bourne.

After a fire burned down the original diner in 2001 and learning of a location in Warren that was available, "from the rubbles

of The Tin Man, comes Girly's Grill," Lind said.

"The thing that's so funny is, everything my mom did, I said I'm going to have my own diner," said Lind. "Sure, enough I still do everything the same way my mom did."

Girly's offers a variety of classic diner dishes, including omelets, pancakes, sandwiches, side meats, salads and more – roast pork, stews, chili, meatballs could be on the menu any given day.

"I use good, simple ingredients that just taste great," said Lind.

"Like a biscuit: You don't think anything special about them, until you taste it right outside of the oven, with just a little bit of honey or jelly, it's like

'wow!'"

Lind's mother has influenced her style of cooking, she said.

"She didn't stay in business for 20 years because she didn't have good food," said Lind. "I think the secret ingredient, is really love."

This initiative also includes taking the extra step to make sure her customers enjoy their meals just the way they want them, such as adding salt and pepper to eggs in a breakfast sandwich if that's their preference. That approach has resulted in her establishing a set of regulars, some of whom have eaten at her diner for over a decade.

What Lind says she enjoys about owning and working at her diner is the "magic" she feels when she's cooking for and serv-

ing her customers.

"Just knowing that people gather to just mingle with other people is amazing," Lind said.

"The magic between the food and the customers just being appreciative is something I can't get over. I haven't survived over the past eight months (during the pandemic) because people don't care."

Regular customers, such as Robert Matthews shared similar sentiments on Lind and the diner.

"For an owner, she's great," said Matthews.

"She's pleasant to talk to and she's always laughing, smiling and makes you feel like you really don't want to go back outside."

He also said the food is reasonably priced.

And the portions are more

than ample. Girly's Grill – the name comes from the nickname Lind's grandmother gave her – has a slogan: "Get your fill."

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, Lind keeps her door locked and has the phone number of the establishment written on the outside so customers can reserve a seat or order in advance and she can avoid overcapacity. A drive-through pickup option is also available.

The diner, located at 1315 Park Street (just off Rt. 20) is open from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. every day except Wednesday. Check out specials on Girly's Grill's Facebook page.

To place an order, call 413-284-0005.



Bear gets a hug from owner Justin "Speedy" Dinsmore-Olsen. Each week we will showcase readers' pets here in print and on our Facebook page. Is your fur friend a dog, cat, chicken, lizard, horse, bird, mouse...you get the point. Maybe you're looking to re-home a pet or find a foster home. All pets are welcome! Email a high-resolution jpg of your pet with a little information to mharrison@turley.com.

DOC implements modified operations at facilities statewide

MILFORD — As part of a concerted effort to protect the health and safety of inmates, patients, and staff, the Massachusetts Department of Correction is taking affirmative steps in a continuing effort to reduce the introduction, exposure, and transmission of COVID-19 at its facilities.

As of Nov. 16, the Department's 16 facilities went into modified operations for a period of 14 days to allow the department to continue to provide a second round of universal COVID-19 testing for all inmates while also providing universal testing for staff. Inmates will still have access to medication distribution, sick calls, medical appointments, mental health contacts, showers, disinfecting of rooms, telephone use, and tier time.

General visitation will be temporarily suspended during this time; attorney visits and releases from custody will continue as scheduled. To promote and maintain connected relationships with families and loved ones while the pandemic necessarily limits visitation, the Department launched video visitation this summer and is in the process of expanding its video infrastructure to provide for virtual visitations at all facilities. The Department is also expanding inmate access to phone and email communication during this time.

The Department of Correction's COVID-19 Information Guide provides additional information that will help address many commonly-asked questions regarding the DOC's response to COVID-19 and the steps we have taken to help protect the health of those in our care. The latest information about COVID-19 in Massachusetts is available from the Department of Public Health.

Free legal help for businesses available in January

Applications should be in by Jan. 1

SPRINGFIELD – The Western New England University Small Business Legal Clinic is accepting applications from entrepreneurs and small business owners seeking legal assistance for the spring semester 2021. Under faculty supervision, law students assist clients with legal issues including choice of entity, employment policies, contract drafting, regulatory compliance, and intellectual property issues relating to trademark

applications and copyright. This is a free service available to local businesses that might not have the resources to obtain such services.

The Small Business Clinic has assisted more than 350 small businesses since it opened. "The Clinic is a great resource for entrepreneurs who lack the finances to retain an attorney," said Associate Clinical Professor of Law Robert Statchen. "By using the Clinic's services, businesses can avoid problems by getting legal issues addressed early and correctly. It also provides students with a great opportunity to get real world experience."

The Clinic requests small business owners to submit their applications by Jan. 1, 2021. Applications received after that date will be considered if additional resources are available. Students will begin providing services in late January. For more information, call the Legal Clinic at 413-782-1469 or email Marie Fletcher, clinical programs administrator, at mfletcher@law.wne.edu.

The School of Law Small Business Legal Clinic was established to afford law students with an opportunity to provide practical consultation to entrepreneurs starting new and building existing

small businesses in the community. This initiative strengthens alliances within the community by using the resources of the University to foster new business development. For more information or to complete an online application, visit <https://www1.wne.edu/law/centers/small-business-legal-clinic.cfm>.

Western New England University is a private, independent, coeducational institution located on an attractive 215-acre suburban campus in Springfield. It serves 3,825 students, including 2,580 full-time undergraduate students.

Grant deadline extended to Dec. 14

The Monson Cultural Council has extended the deadline to apply for community-orientated projects in the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences. Local organizations, schools, and individuals have until Dec. 14 to apply.

These grants can support a variety of projects including lectures, workshops, performances in schools, exhibits, and festivals and must take place between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2021. Monson priorities can be found online at mass-culture.org/Monson along with the link to the online application.

Wilbraham-Hampden Rotary Club begins Winter Clothing Drive

WILBRAHAM – The Wilbraham-Hampden Rotary Club has begun collecting clean, gently-worn or new winter clothing including gloves and hats for adults and children beginning this month. Clean white socks are also needed to be given to the homeless. Donated items will be turned over to the Community Survival Center serving the towns of Wilbraham, Hampden and Ludlow and the Springfield and neighborhoods of Indian Orchard, Sixteen Acres and Pine Point.

Area residents are invited to make a difference in our local community by donating to the winter clothing drive. The club has collection bins in the Scantic Valley YMCA in Post Office Park and in Rice's Fruit Farm store on south Main Street. For more information call 413-537-4171.

Time has a way of changing things...

With the passing of another year, we reflect on the events that changed our lives-some of them good, but for some, there have been better years. Fortunately, time has a way of healing, and letting us go forward-a promise of better years to come. Whatever last year brought you, we want you to know our family's thoughts are with you for a healthy and happy New Year.

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Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

Virtual Holiday Bazaar

Support local artists and the Friends of the Monson Free Library!

Mention the Friends when you purchase from these local businesses during the months of November and December 2020 and they will donate 10% to the Friends of Monson Free Library.

Maureen Solomon
Paintings and jewelry



Maureen Solomon KMS Creations
P.O. Box 187 Monson, MA 01097
413-267-8206
maureen@goodread.com

Peter Mayberry
Hanging ornaments, garden sculpture, wall hangings, jewelry



Peter Mayberry, Metal Artist
286 Wilbraham Road, Monson MA 01097
413-244-2571
413-596-4491

Tod Beall
Stained glass panels and suncatchers, custom designs and repairs



Tod Beall/Beall Glass Studio
12 Upper Hampden Rd. Monson, MA
413-267-3380
beallglass@gmail.com

Penny Lewis
Table toppers and runners, lap quilts, full quilts, and baby quilts



Penny Lewis, Fiber Artist/Quilter
P.O. Box 412, Springfield, MA 01109
413-299-9686
plewis117@juno.com

Please contact sellers directly or email friends.monsonfreelibrary@gmail.com with any questions.

Courtesy Photos

Friends of the Monson Free Library is offering a virtual holiday bazaar featuring an array of artisan creations perfect for gift-giving. Participating artists are Maureen Solomon (KMS Creations), Peter Mayberry, Tod Beall (Beall Glass Studio) and Penny Lewis. The bazaar will run through December.

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can drop off an unwrapped toy in the box in Hitchcock's lobby until Dec. 15. Hitchcock will also have supplies on hand to craft your own ornament and to make a card to send to our troops.

"We want to show our gratitude to those who serve," Skowrya said.

Crafting and cardmaking began Dec. 9 and will continue Tuesdays through Thursdays from noon to 8 p.m. and Fridays from noon to 6 p.m. until Dec. 23.

On Dec. 16 at 6:30 p.m. artist Anna Ozolins will host a Make Your Own Centerpiece class. Cost of the class is \$15. Interested participants should bring their own container but HFA will provide an assortment of seasonal greens. Skowrya also mentioned that people are free to bring any decorative accent(s) they wish to include in their centerpiece.

"There is no question that COVID has effected how we celebrate the holidays this year," Skowrya said, "but COVID does not mean that we stop celebrating."

She reminds people to wear a mask and notes that activities will be set up to accommodate social distancing.

Hitchcock Academy is located at 2 Brookfield Road in Brimfield. For more information, including a complete list of activities, call 413-245-9977 or go to hitchcockacademy.org.

Toy Drive A Success



Courtesy photo

MONSON — More than 125 toys were collected Monday at a toy drive organized by local residents and hosted by Main Street Tavern. Dana, Kim, and the staff helped ensure that even in this difficult time of the COVID-19 pandemic, Christmas presents will be distributed throughout the community of Monson to children who otherwise would go without.

Baker announces roll back of COVID reopening plan

BOSTON — On Tuesday, Gov. Charlie Baker's administration announced that effective Dec. 13, all communities in Massachusetts will return to Step 1 of Phase 3, of the Commonwealth's reopening plan.

According to a news release from Baker's office, this will reduce indoor capacities across a broad range of sectors of the economy and tighten several other workplace restrictions. In a press conference Tuesday, Baker announced the roll-back to respond to an increase in new COVID-19 infections and hospitalizations since the Thanksgiving holiday he said is straining the health care system in Massachusetts.

The return to Step 1 will also require the closure of certain businesses designated as Step 2 industries. These include indoor performance venues and certain high-contact indoor recreational businesses. In addition, capacity limits will be reduced to 40% statewide for most industries, and the limit on outdoor gatherings will be reduced statewide from 100 persons to 50 persons. Additional safety measures will be applied to restaurant dining as well.

These new measures, Baker said, are designed to prevent infection and viral spread, especially in indoor settings. They will create stronger mask compliance, more social distancing, and limits to the time spent with people outside of your immediate household.

The administration also announced additional guidance for certain sectors including restaurants, office spaces and gyms, to address activities where mask

wearing is not possible at all times.

Phase III, Step I

Effective Dec. 13, all communities will roll back to Phase 3, Step 1 of Massachusetts' re-opening plan, including the following restrictions:

Outdoor gatherings at event venues will be limited to no more than 50 people. Hosts of outdoor gatherings of greater than 25 people will be required to provide advance notice of the gathering their local board of health.

Indoor theaters and performance venues and higher contact indoor recreation businesses will be required to close to the public.

Outdoor theaters and performance venues will be limited to 25% capacity, and no more than 50 people.

In all communities, capacity will be reduced from 50% to 40% for the following sectors:

Arcades/Indoor and Outdoor Recreational Businesses

- Driving and Flight Schools
- Gyms/Health Clubs
- Libraries
- Museums
- Retail
- Offices
- Places of Worship
- Lodging (common areas)
- Golf facilities
- Movie Theaters (Maximum 50 people per theater)

This new capacity limit will not apply to sectors that do not currently have a

COVID-19 vaccines at Big Y pharmacies when available

SPRINGFIELD — In partnership with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, all 33 Big Y Pharmacy and Wellness Centers are preparing to administer the COVID-19 vaccines once approved and available for distribution. This partnership is being established in anticipation that one or more COVID-19 vaccines will be authorized and approved for use in the United States as part of the Federal Pharmacy Partnership Strategy for COVID-19. This initiative by the HHS with pharmacies across the United States is part of the federal pharmacy program aimed to further increase access to the vaccines. The partnership has deemed pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacy interns in retail and grocery stores as being crucial public health partners for increasing access and convenience of COVID-19 vaccines.

Big Y's pharmacy team currently provides seasonal flu and other rou-

tine vaccines. They plan to participate in any additional training to ensure the safe administration of the vaccine along with educating their customers about the process.

According to Charles L. D'Amour, president and CEO, "We are proud to partner with the United States government in order to provide free COVID-19 vaccines to our customers. When a vaccine is available, our pharmacy teams will be ready to administer them as per CDC guidelines."

Big Y Foods, Inc. is one of the largest independently owned supermarket chains in New England. Big Y operates 85 locations throughout Massachusetts and Connecticut including 71 supermarkets, Fresh Acres Market, Table & Vine Fine Wines and Liquors and 12 Big Y Express gas and convenience locations with almost 12,000 employees.

Vaccine order placed

On Monday, the administration submitted the Commonwealth's initial vaccine order to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The federal government allocated Massachusetts 59,475 doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for this first shipment that is part of 300,000 doses that the CDC is expected to send to Massachusetts by the end of December. The first allotment of 300,000 COVID vaccines will be for the first dose of a two dose regimen.

Anticipating that the federal government will soon issue emergency use authorizations for additional vaccines, the Administration has been working with the COVID-19 Vaccine Advisory Group to prepare for a safe, equitable and efficient distribution that is based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Baker said the Commonwealth has actively been working on preparedness and planning for a COVID-19 vaccine since early August. Over the past decade, the Commonwealth has invested in the state-of-the-art Massachusetts Immunization Information System (MIIS), which serves as the state's vaccine registry, ordering system, and inventory system. DPH has enhanced MIIS to prepare to administer the COVID-19 vaccine.

Next week, the administration will roll out further information on vaccination prioritization.

For more information, go to mass.gov.

DEADLINE

The Journal Register has changed its firm deadline for public submissions to Mondays. To get your submission in for that week's edition, email Editor at mharrison@turley.com or call the office at 413-283-8393 by noon on Mondays. We appreciate the cooperation of our readers.

3 EASY WAYS TO REACH US

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Corrections

The Journal Register will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 2 or 3. To request a correction, send information to Editor at mharrison@turley.com, or call 283-8393, extension 236. Corrections may also be requested in writing at: Journal Register, Attn: Editor 24 Water St., Palmer, MA, 01069.

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For program information call Gail (413) 283-2329, or reach her by e-mail at: gcarneiro@topfloorlearning.org

POSTPONEMENT:
We are so sorry but our May Scrabble Night and our May Basket Raffle will be postponed. At this time we are uncertain as to when they will be rescheduled.

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Viewpoints

Editorial

Lions Club needs your help so it can help others

When the Monson Lions Club launched its Community Aid program a few months ago, members were keenly aware that there were people in their community struggling because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Whether it's the seemingly relentless impact of the pandemic on the economy or the illness caused by the virus, no one had to look far to find someone who is hurting.

That the Lions proceeded to hold an outdoor, socially distanced fundraiser despite the logistical obstacles was heady enough. Announcing that the club's goal was to provide aid not only to its immediate community, but to residents in Brimfield, Holland, and Wales as well is off the charts.

Enough can not be said about the club's ambition and heartfelt concern for its neighbors. Unfortunately, good intentions alone will not fulfill the Lions' goals.

With limited resources, the Lions decided to focus on one particular need for now and the most universal need in hard times is always having enough to eat. That initial fundraiser netted enough to supply 33 families with supplemental food packages – a terrific start. Now the question is, how can the club keep the program going and help even more individuals and families?

New restrictions on everyday life, particularly gatherings, aimed at stopping the spread of the virus makes any new fundraising events even more difficult to plan and pull off. We're sure they will come up with some creative ideas, but in the meantime, they have to depend on you and your generosity. If the Lions are going to succeed in helping as many area residents as possible avoid going hungry, unsolicited donations will have to keep the aid program afloat for the time being.

Consider that, with the new surge in COVID cases since Thanksgiving, the post-Christmas scenario could look just as bad – if not worse.

Every new wave of infections extends the restrictions and economic turmoil everyone wants to see end and even with wholesale vaccine distribution on the horizon, "normal" is still a long way off. If a government-funded safety net was merely inadequate before COVID, by now it's nearly nonexistent.

Community service minded not-for-profits like the Lions Club have always stepped up when needed. Correspondingly, those efforts have always depended on a strong response from the community.

One positive way to look at it is, if enough people donate, no one has to chip in very much. With that in mind, if you're able, please consider sending what you can afford the Lions' way. No donation is too small.

Anyone who would like to make a donation can email the Monson Lions Club at monsonlionsclub@gmail.com or call 413-668-6653. To send a donation, checks can be mailed to: The Monson Lions, P.O. Box 142, Monson, MA 01057. Please note "for community aid" in the memo portion of the check.

And for those who have the means to support other local organizations in need, please consider these: Palmer Domestic Violence Task Force; Palmer Historical & Cultural Center; Hitchcock Academy in Brimfield; Keep Homestead in Monson; Here Today Adopted Tomorrow Animal Sanctuary in Brimfield; and Monson Against Violence Everywhere.

All of these organizations do important work and are worthy of your support. And if you can only give a little, don't let that stop you. For not-for-profits, a little always goes a long way.

We're in this together and together we'll get through it.



Coriander, fit for cookie-making

My family and I have been enjoying Christmas by Candlelight at Old Sturbridge Village for as long as the program has been running. Wanting to visit the Village after a long work day is through is a real testament to how wonderful this evening event is. It was there that we first sampled a coriander cookie made by a recipe from the early 19th century. We thought it was so yummy, in fact, that it became a welcome addition to our Christmas cookie repertoire. With a double batch under my belt just this afternoon, there is no time like the present to learn about this really neat, multi-purpose plant.

Most gardeners already know that coriander (*Coriandrum sativum*) is one of the few herbs that goes by two different names depending on the part of the plant used. Its foliage, known as cilantro, is used fresh in a number of culinary delights. When the plant goes to seed, known as coriander, it can be used in that stage as well, eaten whole, crushed or powdered.

I liken cilantro to be the "marigold" of the herb world. Either you love it or you hate it. I, for one, immensely dislike it and if given the chance to pick it out of my salsa I will certainly do so. Even in a restaurant. I found it interesting to learn that some people possess a genetically predisposed aversion to it, according to studies by Charles J. Wysocki, of the Monell Chemical Senses Center, in Philadelphia. To me it has a bitter taste that I have a hard time describing beyond that. Dirty? Soil-like? Most people that do dislike it have a similar lack of descriptive ability; they just can't put their finger on it, but they don't like the taste...or the smell of it.

It's funny that when my oldest daughter received her Ancestry DNA results, she was shown not to possess the genetic aversion. Well, she didn't get that from me....

Cilantro is often used in salsa and other Mexican, Asian and Italian dishes including curries, sauces, salads and soups. If you prefer to grow the plant more for its greens and less for its seeds, manage it as you would spinach. Sow seeds in the ground in the cool of the sea-

son and in succession every two weeks. It dislikes being transplanted but doesn't mind pot culture. Harvest greens rather aggressively- about one-third of the plant at a time. Just like spinach, there are slow-to-bolt varieties to choose from such as aptly named 'Slow Bolt' and 'Longstanding.' Cilantro's flowers are edible and they attract lots of beneficial insects such as lady beetles, parasitic wasps and syrphid flies.

Coriander seeds, on the other hand, have a pleasant (at least to me) fragrance once dried. The scent is easier to pinpoint too; nutty and spicy (ever so slightly) come to mind. Coriander seed is also well known in various ethnic cuisines and is a favorite in spice blends, curry being the most popular. It is also used in the making of a number of distilled spirits, herbal liqueurs and Christmas cookies as I have come to find out and favor!

The Herb Society noted that during World War II coriander seeds were coated in white or pink sugar and thrown from carnival wagons, earning the name "confections" or "confetti" When the seeds were replaced by balls of colored paper the name confetti stuck. Take this one to your next game of Cruise Ship Trivia!

It is easy to harvest the seeds. Simply let the heads dry to brown right on the plant. Clip them and place inside a paper bag; as they dry further they will open and the seeds will pop out. Even if you are only interested in harvesting the seeds, multiple plantings (or a big garden patch) are necessary to get a decent-sized harvest. Let a few drop their seeds and you will be blessed with a few self sown plants next spring.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



Roberta McQuaid
Columnist

SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS

No simple answer to claim benefits questions

By Russell Gloor
Guest columnist

Dear Rusty: I'm almost 59 and hope to retire from working soon. Should I take Social Security as soon as possible, or wait for the maximum amount? Signed: Planning Ahead

Dear Planning Ahead: I'm afraid there's no simple answer to your question, except "it depends." It depends on your health; it depends on your need for the money when you retire; and it depends on your life expectancy. Plus, your marital status may also influence your decision on when to claim.

First of all, you cannot claim your Social Security retirement benefit until you are at least 62 years old. But if you claim at 62, your benefit will be cut by 30% from what it would be if you waited until your full retirement age of 67. You actually have an eight-year window starting at age 62, and lasting until age 70 to claim your Social Security benefit. The earlier in that window you claim, the smaller your benefit will be. And the longer you wait to claim, up to age 70, the higher your benefit will be.

At age 70, your benefit will reach maximum at 24% more than it would be at age 67, and 76% more than it will be at age 62. Essentially, if you are in good health, don't urgently need the money earlier, and expect to enjoy at least "average" longevity (about 85 for a man your age today), you will not only get a much higher monthly benefit, but also collect much more in cumulative lifetime benefits by waiting until age 70, or as long as you can, to claim. Of course, no one knows how long they will live, but there are online tools which can assist you with estimating your life expectancy. One relatively simple and user friendly tool is available from Social Security at this link:<https://www.ssa.gov/oact/population/longevity.html>.

Conversely, if you are not in good health and don't expect at least average longevity, or if you urgently need the money when you retire from working, claiming earlier may also be a prudent choice. If you are married and you predecease your wife, her survivor benefit will be based upon the benefit amount you are actually receiving, so by waiting to get a higher benefit for yourself you are also enhancing your wife's eventual benefit as your widow, should you pass before her.

Be aware too that, should you decide to go back to work, until you reach age 67 you'll be subject to Social Security's "earnings test," which limits how much you can earn before Social Security takes back some of your benefits (the 2021 limit is \$18,960 and if that were exceeded, they'd take back benefits equal to half of the amount it was exceeded by). The earnings limit changes annually but goes away at your full retirement age.

So, these are the things you should consider in deciding when in that eight-year window to claim your benefits. I cannot directly answer your question for you, but I hope the above gives you what's needed to make an informed decision on when to claim your Social Security benefits.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisors@amacfoundation.org.

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

Election letters to the editor welcome

The *Journal Register* welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to The Journal Register, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to mharrison@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Thursday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

For more information, call editor Michael Harrison at 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the newspaper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.

Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact advertising, 413-283-8393 about paid advertising in The Journal Register.

Letters to the editor policy

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length, and guest columns between 500-800 words. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require that the person submitting the opinion also include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must confirm authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, or defamation of character.

Please send opinions to:
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The submission deadline for consideration is Monday at noon.

Pandemic lays bare our information problems

By Lee H. Hamilton
Guest columnist

When the history of this era is written, special attention should be reserved for the prominent US politicians who dismissed or misrepresented the COVID-19 pandemic for political purposes.

The coronavirus has wreaked untold suffering and damage to this country through the deaths it's caused, the illness it's produced, the strain it has placed on the lives and well-being of health care workers, and the incredible damage it's done to the livelihoods and prospects of millions of Americans. It has been able to do this because we had a major failure of government.

To be sure, at the state level many governors have conducted themselves with forthright attention to the risks to their populations and have done their best to translate scientific and medical advice into policies designed to save lives while trying to undergird their economies. But at the federal level—with the notable exception of the effort to fast-track research and production of a vaccine—we mostly failed to mobilize resources and take the measures necessary to combat the virus, starting early this year

when the virus first emerged on the West Coast.

In particular, we failed to provide a comprehensive, federally led nationwide strategy providing clear guidance on mask-wearing, offering resources for contact tracing, and helping states develop their approaches to quarantining for those exposed to the virus—the three legs vital for early containment.

Instead, President Trump repudiated and disregarded the advice of experts and health officials and offered a misleading narrative about the spread of the virus abating in the spring. His misinformation was picked up and amplified by news outlets and by politicians who alleged that concern about the pandemic was just a hoax peddled by President Trump's opponents and would disappear as soon as the election was over. Or, even worse, who misled Americans about hydroxychloroquine and other drugs. In other words, many Americans were fed bad information at a time when high-quality information was necessary to stem the spread of the virus and limit the number of deaths.

The result has been devastating, and not just to our public health efforts. For many decades,

the U.S. Has been the leader of the international order, the undisputed power, with vast wealth, economic and military power, and global reach. But our image has been tarnished badly because of the mishandling of this outbreak, made worse over the last four years by our willingness to step away from alliances and international organizations. We are weaker on the world stage than we were a few years ago, and especially since the start of the pandemic.

The problem with reaching this point was summed up cogently back in October by John Halpin, of the Center for American Progress, as part of a study looking at the alarming rise in Americans' willingness to believe conspiracy theories, unfounded rumors, and already-disproven claims. "American society faces a genuine crisis in public trust in government, corporations and the media, exacerbated by wide partisan divides about who and what to believe," he said. "If we cannot agree on basic facts about what is going on in our country, there is little hope of generating consensus on what needs to be done to control the pandemic and fix our economy. Rebuilding public trust in major institutions, and the in-

formation they provide the public, is now a national priority."

I agree. In many ways, the world of information has improved from the days when just a handful of news sources provided Americans with what we needed to know, but there was also a benefit to those times: we might have disagreed about how to tackle national problems, but we all understood what those problems were. Today, people stick to the news sources they agree with, creating a muddle of American public opinion and making it extremely difficult for policy makers to find the common ground needed to accomplish difficult and ambitious policy goals.

This is a significant challenge for the United States, and we have got to get on top of it sooner rather than later.

Lee Hamilton is a senior advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

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LIONS

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limited thus far, we have concentrated on the issue of hunger. In addition to this, our hope is to be able to assist those who may have other needs. As grateful as we are for the generosity of those who attended and contributed to our concert, the need is so much greater than our resources."

The order issued by Gov. Baker Tuesday means many businesses will have to restrict hours and patronage while others will have to close entirely while the pandemic rages. That means that business owners and their employees alike continue to take a hit to their incomes. With Christmas just a couple weeks away and no COVID-19 emergency relief from the federal government in sight, many residents face a long, hard winter.

While food packages served an obvious need, the Monson Lions are planning for other ways they can help local residents when enough people who are able contribute to the fund.

"We are currently determining how we can best serve the needs of the people in these communities," Decoteau said.

COVID-related restrictions also makes it harder for organizations like the Lions to hold safe events like the outdoor concert in October.

"Our fundraising capabilities have been greatly impacted by the restrictions we are all experiencing during these challenging times," Decoteau said.

Anyone who would like to make a donations or ask for assistance can contact the Monson Lions Club by email at monsonlionsclub@gmail.com or call 413-668-6653. To make a donation, checks can be sent to: The Monson Lions, P.O. Box 142, Monson, MA 01057. Please note "for community aid" in the memo portion of the check.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

The Monson Lions Club was chartered in 1955. Since then, members have been working to improve the quality of life for citizens of the local communities and around the world. Lions club members are all volunteers and all the money that is raised by the events that they host goes to their causes. New members are always welcome to join. To learn more about the Monson Lions, go to monsonlionsclub.org.

Young women in public affairs applications being accepted

REGION – The Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley is now accepting applications for the 2021 Young Women in Public Affairs Award, recognizing young women for their demonstrated leadership skills and commitment to public service.

Completed applications are due by March 12, 2021.

Monson resident and Scholarship Chair, Maria Maloney said, "We are looking for women in the Quaboag Valley and surrounding towns who are high school juniors or seniors, and have an active commitment to volunteerism, experience in local or student government, demonstrated leadership

skills, and dedication to advancing the status of women throughout the world. The club offers an award of \$1,000 cash to the most outstanding applicant."

Winners of the local award are eligible to be considered for a District-wide and International award. More information is available at the international site: http://www.zonta.org/web/Programs/Education_Home

Locally, the YWPA application is available by contacting your School Counseling Office, emailing Maria Maloney at MariaMaloneylicsw@gmail.com or by download from www.zontaqv.org/resources.

LUCIA I from page 1

barely has to be a voice for the Royce Lane residents. Guy and Cheryl are long time residents of Wales. Let's come together and show the world what small towns are made of for this family and provide support when it's needed most."

Call the church at 413-245-3109,

go to walesbaptistchurch.org or visit the church's Facebook page.

Donations can be dropped off at PTS Supply, where Gallant and Guy both work, at 1158 Street, Palmer. To donate to the online campaign, visit gofundme.com and search "Lend a hand to the Lucias."

MONSON LIBRARY I from page 1

pairs. Featured items that are up for sale include an Art Deco Train Panel, Craftsman College Panel, and The Heart of a Snowflake. The latter is based on an electron microscope project by scientist Kenneth G. Libbrecht, who is known for photographing multiple snowflakes and even gave Beall permission to offer one of his images for sale.

Beall also said the main reason he wanted to participate in this virtual bazaar was to support the Monson library's fundraising efforts.

"I think that the library is the most import resource we have in our community," said Beall. "Anything I can do help out the library, I am glad to do."

Anyone interested in purchasing paintings and jewelry can check out KMS Creations when shopping on the bazaar. As for Solomon, the artist will be offering a dozen necklaces, plus two Kitchen Goddess wall hangings.

Lewis will be using her skills as a fabric artist to offer original quilted designs and applique, such as table toppers, table runners quilts and more.

Also, metal artist Mayberry is offering sculptures made of copper,

brass, steel and stainless glass steel.

The main thing Paluch said she is looking forward to for the bazaar is the sales. That and bringing art into peoples' lives either for gifts or for their own home decor.

"We're looking forward to having the opportunity to add some creative art into their home and provide a place for people to shop so they don't have to go out," said Paluch.

"It's a community outreach effort from the friends. We've really have never done this before, so we really don't know if it's going to be a financial success, but we've featured these artists all over our website and I think they're happy to be in it."

The virtual holiday bazaar will be available until the end of December. For more information on the local artists and their work, visit monsonlibrary.com/friends-of-the-library or send an email to friends.monson-freeibrary@gmail.com.

Paluch said Friends of the Monson Free Library attracted a lot of new members this year and as of Dec. 1, have collected approximately \$2,000 for the facility. New members are always come. Go to the website or email the group for details.

Smola supports passage of \$46.2 billion state budget for fiscal 2021

BOSTON – State Rep. Todd M. Smola (R-Warren, Ranking Member, Committee on Ways & Means) recently supported a \$46.2 billion state budget for fiscal 2021 that increases local aid for cities and towns, and commits additional spending to fund a variety of COVID-19 relief initiatives across Massachusetts.

The budget, which represents a compromise negotiated by a six-member House and Senate conference committee, was enacted by the House on a vote of 147-11 on Dec. 4, less than 24 hours after the 396-page document was filed. The budget covers state spending through June 30, 2021, and comes five months after the Legislature passed the first of three interim budgets for the fiscal year that began on July 1.

Smola said he had a number of concerns about how the budget process unfolded, but felt it was important to pass the bill to ensure that municipalities, families and businesses can access needed resources during the ongoing COVID-19 global pandemic.

"I still have many concerns about the process and the abbreviated time frame members were given to review the budget," he said. "However, I voted yes because I believe that, during this pandemic, it is more important than ever to work cooperatively to do the people's business. That being said, I would urge the governor and his administration to use the full 10 days allotted them by the Constitution to carefully review this package. While it contains several important components, it also includes some troubling pieces that should either be sent back with amendments or vetoed outright."

The fiscal 2021 budget provides cities and towns with \$5.28 billion in Chapter 70 education aid, an increase of \$107.6 million, along with \$1.129 billion in Unrestricted General Government Assistance to support essential municipal services. The budget

also contains additional education support by funding the Special Education Circuit Breaker at \$345 million, charter school reimbursements for sending districts at \$117 million, regional school transportation at \$82 million, and homeless student transportation at \$13 million.

Smola noted that under the fiscal 2021 budget, Ware will receive \$10,591,234 in Chapter 70 education aid and \$1,833,298 in unrestricted state aid; and Warren will receive \$960,737 in unrestricted state aid. Brimfield will receive \$1,365,006 in Chapter 70 education aid and \$414,004 in unrestricted state aid; Holland will receive \$933,678 in Chapter 70 education aid and \$214,328 in unrestricted state aid; Palmer will receive \$10,915,640 in Chapter 70 education aid and \$2,129,586 in unrestricted state aid; Sturbridge will receive \$3,846,634 in Chapter 70 education aid and \$822,696 in unrestricted state aid; Wales will receive \$1,000,730 in Chapter 70 education aid and \$250,815 in unrestricted state aid.

To help address some of the housing challenges posed by the pandemic, the budget includes language requiring the courts to grant a continuance to tenants facing eviction for non-payment of rent due to financial hardship from the COVID-19 emergency if the tenant has an active rental assistance application pending with the state. It also commits \$50 million to the Residential Assistance for Families in Transition program, and provides \$125 million for the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program.

The fiscal 2021 budget also provides funding to address some of the food insecurity issues that have been exacerbated by the pandemic, including \$30.4 million for emergency food assistance and \$13 million for the Healthy Incentives Program. Smola noted that the hunger rate in Massachusetts has increased by 59% since 2018, with 1 in 5 children now living in a food-insecure household, ac-

cording to an October 2020 report by Feeding America.

The budget also provides \$46 million in grant funding to assist small businesses that have been negatively impacted by the pandemic, including \$17.5 million to help businesses with 50 or fewer employees meet their payroll, rent and utility costs. An additional \$3.85 million will be made available for small business technical assistance and grants that focus on the needs of women-owned and minority businesses.

Other budget highlights include: \$169 million for the Bureau of Substance Addiction Services; \$50.3 million for domestic violence and sexual assault prevention and survivor services;

\$17.5 million in grants for local Councils on Aging;

Creation of an Early Education and Care Public-Private Trust Fund;

\$15 million in Head Start grants;

\$120 million in higher education scholarships; and

\$307 million for guardianship, foster care, adoption, family preservation and kinship services provided by the Department of Children and Families

Smola said the fiscal 2021 budget does not include any new, broad-based taxes. Instead, it relies on several one-time revenue sources, including a \$1.7 billion drawdown from the state's Stabilization Fund, and an accelerated sales tax payment schedule for businesses collecting more than \$150,000 in sales, meals or occupancy taxes, which will provide an additional \$267 million in one-time revenues.

The fiscal 2021 budget, which has also been approved by the Senate, now moves to Gov. Charlie Baker's desk for his review. The governor has the power to issue line item vetoes and can also return portions of the budget to the Legislature with proposed amendments.

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HIGH SCHOOL

Jump balls eliminated, close contacted limited in basketball modifications

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION — Modifications for boys and girls basketball have been released and the game will look a little different, though significant limits to fan attendance will restrict how many can see the different-looking game.

In Western Massachusetts, the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Conference has decided the first practices will not take place until Jan. 4. Several other areas of the states are following suit. With no playoffs scheduled for the winter season, the various regions have the flexibility to decide when schools

will begin and end play.

The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association has set a Dec. 14 date as the soonest teams can start practicing. Several Central Massachusetts schools will start practicing then with contests likely to begin right after the new year.

One rule that will be consistent throughout all sports is the mask mandate.

Participants must wear masks or face coverings at all times will participating in practices or games. The one caveat is that all schools have the ability to designate areas where athletes can take "mask breaks." There will be areas designated for those breaks, especial-

ly during basketball games where players going up and down the court many times wearing a mask may need to catch a breath when the whistle blows. Because of the close contact involved with playing basketball, there was no way to play the sport safely without masks being worn.

The game will see modifications, but nothing too drastic and more along the way the timing, and setup of the game. Gameplay will be largely similar though different ideas were discussed to maintain distancing.

Like many other sports, the pregame will be simplified. Only one captain will meet with the referees

prior to the game. Starting lineups will likely be announced, but the traditional "high-five" lines will not be allowed, along with handshakes with the opposing coach.

There will be emphasis during game play to enforce rules about freedom of movement and closely guarding opposing players. Defenders are not allowed to impede the progress of offensive players, and will enforce the five-second rule on players who are being closely guarded.

The jump ball will be eliminated in favor of a simple coin toss to give possession of the ball to one

BASKETBALL | page 8

SOCCER

Academy team joining Pioneers organization

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW — The Western Mass. Pioneers will be adding a USL Academy League soccer team in 2021. The New England Mutiny are also in the process of forming an Academy soccer team.

Both Academy soccer squads, which will be playing their home matches at historic Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow, will be made up of the top U16-U19 prospects from the Western Mass. area.

"In club soccer, you're limited to certain age groups," said Joe Ferrara, who's the owner of the Mutiny and the new Pioneers General Manager. "An academy soccer team allows talented players to play for one team regardless of their age."

The Pioneers had about 50 players try-out for the Academy League team in November.

"The Academy League team is a new program that we've added this year," said Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari. "Our main goal is to develop the best local soccer players from Western Mass. to hopefully play for the Pioneers in the future."

Molinari, along with the Pioneers assistant coaches will be coaching the Academy League team in 2021.

"We wanted to have the same coaching staff for both the USL 2 team (Pioneers) and the USL Academy team," Molinari said. "We want both of the teams to play the same type of style. I do like coaching the younger soccer players."

The plan is for the boys' Academy League team to play their home matches prior to the Pioneers matches. Both teams will also be traveling together to road matches.

The boys' team will be competing against eleven other teams in the Northeast Division of the USL Academy League.

Molinari has been coaching the Pioneers, who are the defend-

ing Northeast Conference Champions of USL League Two, since 2012. The Pioneers weren't able to play any matches in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Pioneers did not suffer any losses during the 2019 regular season. They lost in conference finals and qualified for U.S. Open Cup, which wasn't held last summer. The Pioneers also qualified for the league playoffs in 2016.

"I really enjoy coaching the Pioneers and it was painful not being able to compete in any matches last year," Molinari said. "We won our Division title in 2019 and it was our best season since I've been coaching the team. We're now thinking about the 2021 season."

Ferrara gave his thoughts about adding a girl's Academy team for the Mutiny.

"We're looking for the top girl's prospects in the area to play for the girls academy team next year," he said. "The age group will be similar to the boy's side. The girl's academy team will probably have one or two older players."

The girls Academy team will be playing home matches before the Mutiny.

Jill Serafino is going to be the head coach of the girls academy squad.

Serafino is currently the Mutiny General Manager and is an assistant coach. She's also an assistant coach for the women's soccer team at Springfield College.

The Mutiny, who celebrated their twentieth anniversary in 2019, played all of their home matches at Lusitano Stadium for the first time.

The Mutiny also finished the 2019 regular season without a loss. They lost to the Lancaster Inferno in the United Women's Soccer Eastern Conference finals.

For more information on either Academy soccer teams please contact Joe Ferrara at jferrara@wmpioneers.com or 413-330-9775.

SOCCER



Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Pioneers tryouts conclude

The Western Mass. Pioneers organization continued its tryouts for various age groups between Nov. 16 and 20, testing out the skills of many young people throughout the region to fill its various teams for the upcoming spring season. The Pioneers are hopeful for a normal schedule in 2021.



AUTO RACING

Star Speedway announces 2021 schedule

EPHING, N.H. — Star Speedway's 2021 schedule includes multiple major events, a full slate of weekly racing series divisions ready to race for a championship and the thrills and spills of staple shows to begin and end the season.

Fans will get a taste of Supermodifieds, Late Models, Modifieds, Midgets, Super Late Models, Trucks, Street Stocks and more over the course of more than 22 events of racing from April through October.

The schedule is headlined by

two events for the Tri Track Open Modified Series (May 29 and July 24), including a new Memorial Day weekend show and the 10th annual SBM Classic in July. The 56th annual Star Classic returns, with a three-day show from Sept. 17 to 19, while there are countless other special events including memorial races and extra-distance shows planned. The Granite State Pro Stock Series is back at Star for two dates -- May 8 and a new Sunday special as part of the Star Classic

weekend, Sept. 19.

Continuing tradition, the season begins with the Spring Bunny Brawl on April 24, and ends with the two-day Howler weekend, Oct. 23 and 24. Star will give teams, drivers and fans one week off each month during the season, with off nights scheduled for May 22, June 12, July 17, Aug. 28 and Sept. 4.

The J&S Paving 350 Supermodifieds will continue to honor some of the best of the past at Star Speedway, with six special events as part

of their 10-race schedule for 2021. A champion will be crowned on Sept. 11. Major memorial events planned include the inaugural Dennis McKennedy Memorial race as part of the Star Classic: Bob Webber Sr. Memorial (May 15) Jen Garland Memorial (June 19) Krupski Cup (June 26) Marco Turcotte Memorial (July 24) Jim Belfiore Memorial (Aug. 14) Dennis McKennedy Memorial at

RACING | page 2

SOCCER



Submitted photos

Laura Gouvin, a Monson resident, plays for Boston College. It was one of the only college programs in New England not forced to cancel its 2020 season.



Gouvin plays in an Atlantic Coast Conference match during the fall.

Gouvin part of college team playing games

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

MONSON — The majority of the college soccer teams from the New England region were forced to cancel or postpone their 2020 season due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Boston College women's soccer team did play eight matches against Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) opponents. One of the eight freshmen listed on the Eagles roster is Laura Gouvin, of Monson.

"We were the only college soccer team from New England that played any matches this fall," said Gouvin, who's plays several different positions. "I'm very grateful to have had the opportunity to play college soccer and it was an awesome learning experience for me."

All eight of the B.C. matches took place between October 1 and November 1.

Even though the start of the college soccer season was delayed by more than a month, Gouvin and her teammates remained upbeat.

"We continued to train and practice like we were going to have a season," Gouvin said. "We knew that the ACC wanted to have a season and we did play all eight of our games. We followed all of the guidelines."

The B.C. men's soccer team didn't compete in any matches.

While most college freshmen are living on their own for the first time, that wasn't the case for Gouvin.

During the past four years, she attended Miss Porter's School, which is a private college preparatory school for girls located in Farmington, Connecticut.

Besides performing well in the classroom, Gouvin helped the Miss Porters soccer team post a 78-6 overall record. Gouvin finished her prep soccer career with a total of 41 assists, which is a school record. She was also selected as an All-American last year.

The B.C. women's soccer team only won one match this season, but they faced three top ten teams and kept improving throughout the season.

"We did play a lot of close matches, which was one of the reasons why I wanted to play soc-

cer at an ACC school," Gouvin said. "We took a step forward in every game that we played this season."

The Eagles began the 2020 campaign with three consecutive road matches.

Gouvin's collegiate soccer career began with a night match at the University of Notre Dame.

"It was my first time visiting the Notre Dame campus and I was a little bit nervous," she said. "It just felt good being out on the field again because I hadn't played a soccer game in so long."

Gouvin was told by second-year Eagles head coach Jason Lowe that she would be one of the eleven starters against the Irish.

"Seeing my name listed on the starting line-up sheets was a special moment," Gouvin said. "I put in a lot of hard work just to get to that point. I also play several positions, so I just wanted to help my team anyway that I can."

Gouvin was recruited by former B.C. head coach Alison Foley.

"I was recruited by coach Foley, but coach Lowe is also a very good soccer coach," Gouvin said. "Coach Lowe is in the process of rebuilding our soccer program. He's supportive of you on and off the field."

Following the match at N.D., which was a 2-0 loss, the Eagles made the five-hour bus trip to the University of Louisville.

"I spent most of the bus ride to Louisville doing schoolwork," Gouvin said. "When I did look out my window, I saw a part of the country that I've never seen before. It was pretty cool."

After being shutout in their first two matches of the season, the Eagles suffered a 4-3 loss at Pittsburgh on October 8.

One of the Eagles highlights of the Pitt match occurred during the 16th minute of the opening half. Gouvin earned her first college assist on a corner kick, which gave her team a 2-1 lead.

"I took a lot of the corners and set pieces this season," she said. "I just struck the ball really well on that play and we scored a goal on a header. It felt very good."

A week later, the Eagles played their first home match against Duke, who were ranked

GOUVIN | page 2

T-Birds make donation to cancer-related charities

SPRINGFIELD — On Nov. 30, the Springfield Thunderbirds' Foundation announced \$4,000 in donations to local cancer-related charities to cap off a successful Hockey Fights Cancer campaign during the month of November. Donations will be made to local cancer-related charities, including: Center for Human Development's Cancer House of Hope, Survivor Journeys, American Cancer Society - Relay for Life, Mercy Medical Center - Sister Caritas Cancer Center, and the national non-profit, Hockey Fights Cancer.

This season's campaign looked quite different from previous years. Typically, the Thunderbirds would host a Hockey Fights Cancer themed game at the end of November, complete with specialty lavender jerseys that are worn by the players and auctioned off after the game. This year, however, the campaign was activated on social media. Throughout the month of November, the Thunderbirds collected names on social media from fans for people they "fight for." New Valley Bank & Trust committed to donate \$5 for each submission received to the Thunderbirds' Foundation, for the first 500 submissions for a remarkable \$2,500 total donation. The names were then added to Hockey Fights Cancer



Submitted photo
Thunderbirds Managing Partner Paul Picknelly, New Valley Bank & Trust President and CEO Jeff Sullivan, Thunderbirds Mascot Boomer, Thunderbirds President Nathan Costa, and Thunderbirds Vice President, Sales & Strategy Todd McDonald.

placards that were placed on the windows leading to New Valley Bank & Trust's newly renovated headquarters in Monarch Place in downtown Springfield.

"As we take down the placards we are revealing our brand

new headquarters location", said Jeff Sullivan, President and CEO of New Valley Bank. "We have been inspired by the personal messages of hope as we have been completing our construction on the other side of the glass. There

are heroes all around us, from our friends and family fighting cancer to the work that the Thunderbirds and others do to alleviate hunger in the community. We at New Valley continue to be very optimistic about the return of the vibrant culture of downtown Springfield as we begin to see vaccine distribution and economic resurgence in 2021."

In addition to the contribution from New Valley Bank, the Thunderbirds also collected monetary donations on their foundation website, as well as holding a specialty game-worn jersey raffle from previous Hockey Fights Cancer games. The grand total generated through these campaigns equaled \$4,000.

"Hockey Fights Cancer has been an incredibly important cause for our organization and across the AHL and NHL," said Thunderbirds President Nathan Costa. "Even though our season hasn't technically started yet, it was important to keep the cause front and center in our community, and we thank New Valley Bank & Trust for stepping up during this difficult time. We are grateful to all who supported the cause by purchasing a raffle ticket, making a donation to our foundation, or simply submitting a name of someone that you fight for."

GOUVIN ■ from page 7

fifth in the nation at the time.

Because of the pandemic, spectators weren't allowed to attend any of the B.C. home matches this year.

Laura parents (Sean and Jen), who did not miss any of her soccer matches at Miss Porters, had to watch her college games on television or a computer.

"My parents and my grandparents usually came to all of my soccer games at Miss Porters. I'm hoping they can come watch me play next year," Gouvin said. "It was weird not having any fans in the stands this year, but we were grateful just to be playing."

After hosting top ranked U.N.C., the Eagles celebrated a 3-1 victory at Syracuse on October 22.

"After playing Duke and U.N.C., who were two very tough teams, we really wanted to beat Syracuse," Gouvin said. "Syracuse scored the first goal of the game, but we scored the next three goals."

Gouvin netted what turned out to be the game winning goal late in the opening half.

"I was so happy after scoring my first college goal," she

said. "I believe that I was the only freshman on my team who scored a goal this year. I received a lot of text messages from my family and friends following that game. It was an awesome feeling and the bus ride back home was a lot of fun."

The Syracuse goalkeeper is Lysianne Proulx, who tied her career-high with 14 saves against the Eagles. Proulx, who's from Montreal, Canada, also played soccer for the New England Mutiny in 2018.

Gouvin also played in several matches for the Mutiny in 2019. She's hoping to play in a few more games for the Mutiny at historic Lusitano Stadium next summer.

"I didn't get to play in very many matches for the Mutiny two years ago because I played in the E.C.N.L. Nationals in California," Gouvin said. "I'm really looking forward to playing for the Mutiny again next summer because playing against the older players challenges me."

Because of COVID-19, Gouvin and her teammates didn't use up any of their eligibility this past fall.

RACING ■ from page 7

Star Classic (Sept. 18)

The Ken Izzett Construction Late Models are back with their own nine-race slate, headlined by an Independence Day weekend special on July 3, a 75-lapper, and a 100-lap feature on Aug. 21. The Late Models will also return to the Star Classic, this year as part of a Friday slate. The Late Model champion will be crowned on Sept. 11.

The MLM Diagnostic Fast 40 series return for the Woody's Street Stocks as part of the division's 16-race schedule. There will be four races in the 40-lap series (April 24, May 29, June 26 and Aug. 7), while the season will begin at the Bunny Brawl and end with the title battle on Sept. 26. The Street Stocks will continue to run their 50-lap race to end the season at the Howler, Oct. 23.

The EXIT Realty Pro Truck Series rumbles into the New Hampshire oval for two dates of their own, slated for events on Aug. 7 and Star Classic Sunday, Sept. 19. The North East Mini Stock Tour returns to Star three times -- including dates on June 5, Aug. 7 and Sept. 26. The annual NEMST 4 Cylinder Nationals main event will be run during their September date, moved from Classic weekend.

Two Wild And Whacky Wednesday night races are set for June 23 and Aug. 4, with both nights showcasing 4 and 6/8 Cylinder enduro races. The Six Shooters join the June show, while the August race is headlined by the Mia's Jewelry Bou-

tique Slingshots and spectacular one-on-one drag races. NELCAR returns to Star with their Legends Cars division in 2021, with dates on May 8 and Saturday, Sept. 18.

The three-day Star Classic will honor the late Bobby Webber Sr., beginning on Friday, Sept. 17, headlined by a 100-lap race for the Modified Racing Series, joined by the Late Models, Pure Stocks and Slingshots. On Saturday, the day full of winged warriors is back with the ISMA 125, Dennis McKennedy 350 Supermodified memorial, NEMA Midgets, NEMA Lites and NELCAR Legends Cars. On Sunday, the weekend ends with a 100-lapper for the Granite State Pro Stock Series, races for the EXIT Trucks, Classic Lites, Street Stocks and Six Shooters.

The Six Shooters will run 13 races, headlined by the Don & Aline Coster Memorial (July 10) and the Liz Paradise Memorial (Oct. 23). The Slingshots are set for 14 battles of their own, with a 40-lap special scheduled for part of the Aug. 4 show. There are 13 races for the Pure Stocks, races for the Classic Lites, and multiple enduro races for the 4, 6 and 8 cylinders.

The track will hold two swap meets -- one to start the season on April 17, from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., and one in the fall, a two-day special on October 30 and 31 from 6:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The 2021 schedule is subject to change due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information visit Star Speedway at StarSpeedwayNH.com and follow the track on social media.

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Athlete of the Week

Laura Gouvin
Boston College

The Monson resident was able to play soccer this past fall for Boston College.

To nominate someone for Athlete of the Week, contact Managing Sports Editor Gregory A. Scibelli at 413-283-8393 ext. 258 or send an e-mail to gscibelli@turley.com.

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and loved ones. We will be featuring photos from all 11 of our sports sections in the coming weeks, but as always, you can see all the photos that appear by subscribing to your local paper or picking up a copy in your community.

BASKETBALL ■ from page 7

team. Alternating possession will then prevail like the rest of the game typically does.

Free throws will look a bit different with just four players allowed with the shooter. Normally six players are allowed. When a player is awarded two or three free throws, they will shoot alone until the final shot to limit the time players are in close contact.

One bigger chance that affects the end-of-game strategy for teams is the "intentional" fouls used to try and gain possessions for a team that is trailing. A team will looking

to intentionally foul for that purpose will inform the referee of that intention, and then lightly tag the player with the ball upon inbounding. The referee would then blow the whistle.

Jump balls will be whistled quicker in order to limit close contact.

Rosters are limited to no more than 15 players and three coaches on the bench, though many teams do not carry more than 12 or 13 players. The MIAA is also strongly discouraging

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54		55			56				57	58	59
60				61				62			
63				64				65			
66				67				68			

CLUES ACROSS

- Skateboarders love them
- Popular sports podcast (abbr.)
- Former Ohio State great Michael
- Not dirty
- Earth goddess (Greek myth.)
- A Spanish river
- Pig meat (French)
- Famed astronomer
- Floating ice
- Broadcast
- Aquatic mammals
- Some are bath
- Hip hop trio
- NY Giants' #56
- Small European viper
- Neither
- Multiple Tony-winner Rivera
- Loud noise
- Second year high schooler

CLUES DOWN

- Proof of purchase (abbr.)
- Soap ingredient
- Blackbird
- Single steps
- Tin
- Books have lots of them
- Made of fermented honey and water
- You can get it in a bed
- Room for communal meals
- Early Syrian kingdom
- Provokes dry amusement
- Use with "thou"
- Mollusk
- Grain storage units
- Not a car, not a truck
- Ooze
- N. Vietnamese ethnic group
- Tennis pros group
- Something that's not what it's purported to be
- E. Indian trees
- Beloved December holiday
- Regions
- Metric unit of length
- Peter's last name
- Beige
- 18-year period in astronomy
- Where golfers begin
- Basketball stat (abbr.)
- Frocks
- Soda comes in it
- On approval
- Trims by cutting
- Small finch
- Language Bura---
- Nothing
- Imbecile (British)
- Tropical Asian plant
- Abba, Israeli politician
- Small freshwater fish
- Indicates position
- Data processing

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DEATH NOTICES

Theresa M. Brothers, 73
Died: Dec. 5, 2020

Mary Virginia Charles, 96
Died: Dec. 1, 2020

Elizabeth Ann Ewing Fox, 89
Died: Aug. 30, 2020

Frieda V. Mantha, 91
Died: Dec. 4, 2020
Funeral Services: 10:30 a.m. Dec. 14 at St. Christopher Church in Brimfield

The Journal Register
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

O B I T U A R I E S

Theresa M. Brothers, 73

MONSON — Theresa M Brothers, 73, passed away Saturday, Dec. 5, 2020.

Theresa was born Jan. 15, 1947, in Brooklyn, N.Y., to the late John H. and Ruth (Guttag) Brunner, Sr. She has been a resident of Monson for many years.

Terry had a nurturing and caring soul. She was a LPN and worked in home healthcare and also assisted with at-home dialysis for many years. Terry could also be found driving a truck if that was what needed to be done. She enjoyed traveling, “tag selling” and Saturday evening was reserved for “poker night” with family and friends.

Theresa was a member and Past Queen of the Ahlem Temple #84 Daughters of the Nile and

also was part of the Unit of Bedouin Blles performance unit and a member of the Barona Chapter Order of Eastern Star.

She was predeceased by her husband Alfred E. Brothers, Jr. in 2008 and leaves her loving family: sons, Mark H. LaFountain and his wife Wendy of Uxbridge, Ronald C. Monn and his wife Kimberly of Suffolk, Va., Scott W. LaFountain and his wife Lisa of Plant City, Fla; brothers, Kenneth L. Brunner and his wife Margie of Punta Gorda, Fla., Richard W. Brunner of Lexington, S.C., John H. Brunner, Jr. of Monson; two grandchildren, David Monn and Jason Monn; a great grand-



daughter, Cheyenne Monn, and many loving family members and close friends.

A gathering of family and friends will be held 1-5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11, at Theresa's home, 15 Bliss St. Monson.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Lombard Funeral Home in Monson. In lieu of flowers, please consider a memorial donation in Theresa's name to the Shriner's Hospital for Children 516 Carew Street Springfield, MA 01104.

For online condolences please visit lombardfuneral-home.com.

Mary (Longtine) Charles, 96

MANCHESTER, NH — Mary Virginia (Longtine) (Murray) Charles, 96, formerly of Boynton Beach Fla., passed away Dec. 1, 2020, at Birch Hill Manor, Manchester, N.H.

She befriended and was loved by many of the staff and residents at Birch Hill. She grew up in Palmer, Massachusetts before attending Forsyth School of Dental Hygiene in Boston in 1947. She married William (Bill) Murray and they lived in Puerto Rico, where she provided dental hygiene services to children. They later retired to Greentree Villas in Boynton Beach. She travelled the world, enjoyed her career, loved to dance and loved

her family.

After Bill passed away, she later married Joseph Charles Sr., also of Boynton Beach, formerly from Syracuse, N.Y. They enjoyed playing cards with friends and attending St. Mark Church.

Mary leaves behind her sister Eleanor Girouard, her nieces, nephews and their families — James Girouard and wife Maureen, Mary (Girouard) Higgins and husband Stephen, Margaret (Girouard) Marko and husband Bohdan, Tonya Girouard, Dr. Janina Longtine, Christopher



Longtine and wife Jennifer, and Gregory Longtine and wife Petra. Her husbands, her brother Francis and his wife Victoria, her brother James and his wife Marilyn, her brother-in-law James Girouard and her nephew Thomas Girouard predeceased her.

A service will be held at a later date at St. Thomas Cemetery in Palmer.

To view Mary's Online Tribute, send condolences to the family, or for more information, visit phaneuf.net.

Frieda V. Mantha, 1929 – 2020

WINTER HAVEN, FL — Frieda V. Mantha, 91, formerly of Springfield and Palmer, passed away at home on Dec. 4, 2020.

She was born in Agawam on March 22, 1929, to the late Isaac J. and Beatrice (Paro) Nolin and had attended Agawam Schools. From 1973 to 1981, Frieda was employed at Monson Development Center as an attendant I and II. Since 1985, she was a member of the Daughter's of Isabella and past regent of Palmer Circle #408 and a Third Order Dominican Laity of the St. Joseph Chapter in West Springfield.

In 1992, she completed her Clinical Pastoral Education from Passionist Monastery in West Springfield. She was also a Eucharistic minister for six years at St. Christopher Church in Brimfield and the lector from 1992 to 1998.

Besides her parents, Frieda was predeceased by her beloved

husband of 61 years, George W. Mantha, who passed in April, 2007; her daughter Denise A. Belanger, who passed July, 2015, and her siblings E. Francis Nolin and Beatrice Al-lard.

To cherish her memory, she leaves her children Edward L. Mantha and his wife Judith, Renee V. Lacey and her husband James, and David E. Mantha; her grandchildren Lee Mantha and his wife Ching, Annie Bourque and her husband Paul, Roy Mantha, Michelle Decoito, Steven Guenther, Ethan, Zachary, and Brittany Mantha, Angel Carlson and her husband Ben, and Andy Belanger and his wife Tori; great grandchildren Gabrielle Strapponi, Breanna and Vivian Decoito, Logan, PJ, and Lily Bourque, and Dylan Mantha; great



great grandchild Stella Strapponi.

Family and friends are invited to gather 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13, at Colonial Forastiere Funeral Home, 985 Main Street, Agawam.. Funeral services for Frieda will be held at 10:30 a.m. Monday, Dec. 14, at the Massachusetts Veteran's Memorial Cemetery, 1390 Main Street, Agawam. MASKS AND SOCIAL DISTANCING ARE REQUIRED WHILE ATTENDING SERVICES.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Frieda's memory may be made to St. Christopher's Church, P.O. Box 387, 16 Sturbridge Road, Brimfield, MA 01010. For more information or to leave an online condolence, please visit forastiere.com

rested at 9:15 p.m., for allegedly operating a motor vehicle under the influence of liquor.

Friday, Dec. 4

Richard Thomas, 65, of 493 Denslow St., Windsor Locks, was arrested at 6:13 p.m., on an arrest warrant.

Henry Earl Record, 50, of 45 Parker St., E. Longmeadow, was arrested at 10:10 p.m., on charges of a warrant and alleged possession of a Class B drug.

Michal Joseph Balsam, 61, of 5A Pine Hill Dr., Palmer, was ar-

O B I T U A R I E S

Elizabeth Ann Ewing Fox (Bette)

Elizabeth Ann Ewing Fox (Bette) died at home in Greenwich, CT, on Sunday, August 30, 2020, of heart failure. Born in Rutland, VT, March 26, 1931, she was the eldest daughter of Walter C. and Ruth T. Ewing of Chippenhook, VT. She was of the tenth generation of Ewings to live there. First attending the one-room schoolhouse in Chippenhook, she was graduated from Rutland High School in 1948 and Castleton University in 1950, both with honors. On July 16, 1949, Bette married her husband of 66 years, Wayne C. Fox, of Rutland, VT.

Bette began her 52-year teaching career in that same one-room school in Chippenhook, where she taught all grades, first through eighth. In addition to teaching, Bette tended to all the school's needs, which included the building's upkeep, acting as school nurse and chopping wood for the stove during the winter months. She later taught third and fourth grades in Middletown Springs, VT.

Bette and Wayne refurbished a house in Chippenhook, and this is where they lived during the early years of raising their children, Elizabeth and Ewing. In 1957, Wayne was transferred to Massachusetts to work for Tampax in Palmer. Bette taught seventh and eighth grades in Belchertown, MA, and third grade in Thorndike, MA. She was the Secretary of The Rosary Sodality at Saint Thomas Church and began her decades-long involvement in the Teachers Union, serving in MA, NH and NY as an officer and contract negotiator. In all three states, she was also active in the League of Women Voters.

In 1964, the family moved to Claremont, NH. Bette was graduated from Keene State College with honors in 1967, earning a BS in Mathematics and English. She attended Dartmouth College to pursue her Master's in Humanities. During her time there, she also learned computer programming. This became a lifelong passion for her, as she delighted in the innovations that technology offered the field of education. In Claremont, Bette taught the fifth grade at The Bluff School and seventh

and eighth grade math at Claremont Junior High School in addition to serving as a Cub Scouts Den Mother. When New Hampshire sought to formulate a statewide code of professional conduct and ethics, she was selected and served as the representative for educators throughout the state at the state capitol. She was also selected as the state representative to the Western Hemisphere Math Conference in Canada.

In 1974, Wayne was transferred to Willsboro, NY, to serve as Plant Manager for the new Tampax. They bought an 1860 Carpenter's Revival house called Kimberlea in Westport, NY, and spent that summer transforming the home into a year-round residence. Bette joined the faculty at Ticonderoga Central School, teaching sixth, seventh and eighth grade math, reading and computer science, retiring after 26 years there. Additionally, Bette served on the prestigious Middle States Assessment Commission on Elementary and Secondary Schools.

Encouraged by her father, Bette developed a deep interest in Ewing family genealogical research at the age of ten. This became a lifelong pursuit, as she traveled around the country to gather information from libraries, town halls and cemeteries and spent most days in her retirement doing research and contributing her notes to the genealogical record. She is published in The Ewing Family Association Journal (Clan Ewing of America). Bette was a member of the Ewing Family Clan and Daughters of the Magna Carta. Her love of the outdoors complimented her favorite activities of gardening; botany: studying, gathering and preserving her finds; bird watching; camping; and spending time at the beach. Together with her husband, antiquing was also a favorite pastime. When asked which of life's experiences were most profound, she described traveling with Wayne; educational trips with her children and grandchildren; and attending a Mass said by Pope John Paul at the Vatican. Re-



tirement travels led Bette and Wayne to Sebastian, FL, where they lived in the winter.

Bette will be remembered for her strong convictions regarding equality for all, and in particular, the advancement of women. Bette will also be remembered

as fiercely loyal to those she loved; energetic; always up for an adventure; reading math textbooks for fun; doing research or working in her gardens; and always wearing bright colors and her genuine smile. She was fierce and brave and a woman of incomparable grace. She was an indefatigably devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and friend. To be loved by her meant to be guided by her generous offer of support and wisdom. She exemplified a life devoted to the pursuit of knowledge and love, and her legacy will live on through three generations, friends she held dear and those she taught.

Bette was predeceased in July 2010 by her son, Ewing Walter Fox, and in February 2015 by her husband, Wayne Charles Fox. She is survived by her daughter, Elizabeth Ann Fox, of Greenwich, Connecticut; and by five grandchildren and seven great grandchildren: Ewing Fox and wife Theresa and their two daughters, Logan and Etta; Elizabeth Barker and husband Ford and their two children, Fox and Henrietta; Crosby Fox and husband Kent Collier and their two sons, Sullivan and Arlo; William Dyke and fiancé Kathleen Godbold; and Emily Fox and husband Brendan McLaughlin and their son, Madds. She is also survived by her beloved younger sisters, Beverley Ewing Taranovich of Concord, NH, and Joyce Ewing McGinnis of Rutland, VT, and two nieces and five nephews.

For those who wish, donations in her memory may be made to the Ballard Park Foundation in Westport, NY (www.ballardpark-ny.org), or to the League of Women Voters (www.lwv.org).

The family plans a memorial service and reception in Westport, NY, in the summer of 2021 or when it is safe to gather. Details will be released when finalized.

Fire Logs

PALMER

The Palmer Fire Department responded to a total of 10 calls from Dec. 2 through Dec. 7.

On Wednesday, Dec. 2, at 4:41 p.m., the department responded to a carbon monoxide detector activation on Bennett Street. The department returned to service at 5:27 p.m.

On Thursday, Dec. 3, at 8:11 a.m., the department responded to a carbon monoxide detector activation on River Street. The department returned to service at 8:46 a.m.

On Saturday, Dec. 5, at 9:11 a.m., the department responded to a motor vehicle accident on the Mass Pike. The department returned to service at 10:05 a.m.

On Saturday, Dec. 5, at 12:39 p.m., the department responded to a motor vehicle accident with extrication on Ware Street. The department returned to service at 1:51 p.m.

On Saturday, Dec. 5, at 3:23 p.m., the department responded to a brush fire on Ware Street. The department returned to service at 4:44 p.m.

On Saturday, Dec. 5, at 1:47 p.m., the department responded to a carbon monoxide detector activation on Stimson Street. The department returned to service at 2:24 p.m.

On Monday, Dec. 7, at 8:57 a.m., the department responded to a motor vehicle roll over on Ware Street. The department returned to service at 9:31 a.m.

On Monday, Dec. 7, at 12:19 p.m., the department responded to a smoke detector activation on Thorndike Street. The department returned to service at 12:45 p.m.

On Monday, Dec. 7, at 1:11 p.m., the department provided a public service on Breckenridge Street. The department returned to service at 1:26 p.m.

On Monday, Dec. 7, at 10:56 p.m., the department responded to a structure fire on

Cabot Street. The department returned to service at 12:13 a.m.

THREE RIVERS

The Three Rivers Fire Department responded to a total of three calls from Dec. 4 through Dec. 7.

On Friday, Dec. 4, at 11:28 a.m., the department responded to an alarm activation on Three Rivers Road. The department returned to service at 11:35 a.m.

On Monday, Dec. 7, at 9:00 a.m., the department conducted a smoke investigation on Springfield Street. The department returned to service at 9:05 a.m.

On Monday, Dec. 7, at 10:56 p.m., the department provided mutual aid to the Palmer Fire Department. The department returned to service at 11:11 p.m.

BONDSVILLE

The Bondsville Fire Department responded to a total of two calls from Dec. 1 through Dec. 7.

On Monday, Dec. 7, at 11:21 a.m., the department assisted Palmer Ambulance Inc. on Griffin Street. The department returned to service at 11:31 a.m.

On Monday, Dec. 7, at 10:55 p.m., the department responded to a call for mutual aid in Palmer for a structure fire. The assistance was not needed and the department returned to service at 11:10 p.m.

MONSON

The Monson Fire Department responded to a total of 10 fire calls and 20 EMS calls from Nov. 30 through Dec. 6.

On Monday, Nov. 30, at 8:16 a.m., the department provided public assistance on Butler Road. The department returned to service at 8:30 a.m.

On Wednesday, Dec. 2, at 4:02 p.m., the department responded to an illegal burn on Cedar Swamp Road. The department returned to service at 4:40 p.m.

On Thursday, Dec. 3, at 8:57 a.m., the department responded to a fire alarm activation on Country Club Heights. The department returned to service at 9:23 a.m.

On Thursday, Dec. 3, at 9:08 p.m., the department responded to a fire investigation on Country Club Lane. The department returned to service at 9:25 p.m.

On Saturday, Dec. 5, at 8:05 a.m., the department responded to a fire alarm activation on Broadway Road. The department returned to service at 9:19 a.m.

On Saturday, Dec. 5, at 12:43 p.m., the department responded to tree downed power lines around Stafford Road. The department returned to service at 1:10 p.m.

On Saturday, Dec. 5, at 1:51 p.m., the department responded to tree downed power lines around Brimfield Road. The department returned to service at 2:46 p.m.

On Saturday, Dec. 5, at 3:12 p.m., the department responded to tree downed power lines around Munn Road and Sutcliffe Road. The department returned to service at 3:36 p.m.

On Saturday, Dec. 5, at 3:36 p.m., the department responded to tree downed power lines on Wales Road. The department returned to service at 3:50 p.m.

On Saturday, Dec. 5, at 4:41 p.m., the department responded to tree downed power lines on Cote Road. The department returned to service at 4:57 p.m.

Police/Fire

Police Logs

PALMER

The Palmer Police Department responded to one arrest from Dec. 2 to Dec. 8. The person arrested will appear at the Palmer District Court and is innocent until proven guilty.

Monday, Dec. 7

Michael J. Martowski, 54, of 120 Skate St. Bondsville, was arrested at State Street in Bondsville, on a warrant.

MONSON

The Monson Police Department responded to a total of nine arrests or summons from Nov. 29 to Dec. 5. Those arrested will appear at the Palmer District Court and are innocent until proven guilty.

Thursday, Dec. 3

Christine Marie Redd, 37, of 45 Elm St. Apt. #D, Monson, was arrested at 7:59 p.m., on a warrant.

Michal Joseph Balsam, 61, of 5A Pine Hill Dr., Palmer, was ar-

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BBB offers tips for buying home gym equipment

As the COVID-19 outbreak continues, many consumers are finding ways to work out at home instead of going to the gym. Setting up a home gym is a great way to stay in shape without coming into contact with others, but the equipment can be costly. What do you need to know to make good purchasing decisions and stay within budget? The following tips will help:

How to Choose and Purchase Home Gym Equipment

Consider your physical needs. Start with your fitness needs and goals. Any equipment you buy should match up with your objectives and interests - otherwise you may not use the equipment after the initial excitement wears off. If you have any existing health conditions, such as heart disease, arthritis, or a back injury, be sure to check with your doctor about what kind of ex-

ercises and equipment are safe for you to use.

Set a budget. With such a huge variety of home gym equipment on the market, you can set up an effective home gym on just about any budget. Review your budget and see how much you can afford to spend on home gym equipment, factoring in the money you'll save if you terminate your gym membership. The National Academy of Sports Medicine and Consumer Reports have useful guides that can help you choose the right equipment for your specific budgeted amount.

Measure your space. Another consideration that will affect your purchasing decision is how much space you have to dedicate to your home gym. Measure your space carefully to see if specific pieces of equipment will fit. Don't forget to measure any entryways the equip-

ment must fit through to reach your home gym space as well.

Read consumer reviews. Once you've found a piece of equipment that matches your fitness objectives, is within your budget, and physically fits in your designated space, it's time to start reading reviews. Read multiple reviews from several retailers and pay close attention to any comments about the quality of the equipment and the experience with the retailer. Reference these comments when making a final purchasing decision.

Beware of "get fit quick" solutions. Don't give in to the temptation to buy equipment that promises miraculous results. Maintaining physical health is a long-term endeavor that will require effort. If a seller says their equipment will get you in shape with little to no effort, a healthy dose of skepticism is advised.

vised.

If possible, test equipment before you buy. The American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons recommends wearing exercise clothes and athletic shoes to try out exercise equipment before you buy it. Many brick and mortar stores have display equipment you can try before you make a purchase. Make sure you can operate and feel comfortable using any equipment you plan on adding to your home gym.

Compare prices. Since exercise equipment is often sold by multiple retailers, compare prices between sporting goods stores and manufacturers. You may be able to find the same product for a lower price at a different store. You can also consider purchasing used equipment, but proceed with caution. Most second-hand equipment is purchased "as-is," and sales are often final with

no option to return.

Understand delivery options. When purchasing large home gym equipment like treadmills or weight machines, find out how you will get the equipment from the store to your home. Read carefully or talk directly to a sales representative to find out how much shipping costs, what delivery fees you can expect to pay, and whether or not the delivery person will set up the equipment for you.

Inquire about fitness equipment returns, refund policies, and warranties. New home gym equipment usually comes with a guarantee or warranty program, but some retailers may have altered these due to the pandemic. Retailers may now have special restrictions for delivery and returns so before placing an order, find out if a retailer has a return policy, if refunds are available and

how they are issued, what the return process is, who pays for return shipping, how much it costs for heavy gym equipment, and if you will be charged a restocking fee.

Inspect equipment before purchasing or upon delivery. Before you take equipment home, make sure it is in perfect condition with no defects. The same goes for receiving a delivery. If you notice the equipment is missing pieces or damage, you aren't obligated to accept it.

Understand in-store financing before you agree to it. If a store offers you in-house financing for larger equipment purchases, read the financing plan carefully. Find out how long the financing lasts, how much interest you will pay, and whether there is a fee to pay the balance in full early. If a retailer offers you a rent-to-own plan, read the FTC's advice on renting to own.

Public notices

MORTGAGEE'S NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and execution of the power of sale contained in a Mortgage given by Judson Garrett and Rebecca Garrett to North Brookfield Savings Bank dated September 25, 2003 and recorded with the

Hampden Registry of Deeds in Book 13618 Page 143, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold a public auction on the premise known as 56 Kimball Hill Road, Holland, Hampden

County, Massachusetts on **Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 11:00 am in the forenoon**, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:
The Land in Holland, Hampden County, Massachusetts bounded and described as follows:
The land in Holland,

Hampden County, Massachusetts, at the southwesterly junction of Kimball Hill Road and Joanie Drive being Lots 35, 36 & 37 on a plan of Lake View Estates by

Igor Veschesloff Land Surveyor dated 3-2-67 revised 11-20-73 and filed with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book of Plans, 157, Pages 90 and 91, together bounded as follows:

Easterly by Kimball Hill Road in two courses 64.26 feet and 91.76 feet;

Southeasterly by Lot 47 on said plan, 134.01 feet;

Southwesterly by Lot 48 and 49 on said plan, 118.48 feet;

Westerly by Lot 34 on said plan 208.22 feet;

Northerly by Joanie Drive 117.91 feet; and

Northeasterly by a curve at the junction of Joanie Drive and Kimball Hill Road 31.845 feet.

Subject to easement rights of New England Telephone and Telegraph Company et al under instrument dated July 24, 1959 recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 2698, Page 332.

Subject to easement rights of New England Telephone and Telegraph Co. and Mass Electric Company under instrument

dated January 14, 1975, recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 4099, Page 176.

Subject to building and use restrictions of record.

Being the same premises conveyed to Judson Garrett and Rebecca Garrett by deed of Dale A. Berthiaume and Amber R. Berthiaume dated September 24, 2003 and recorded herewith in Book 13618, Page 141.

The above premises will be sold subject to and with the benefit of all restrictions, easements, improvements, outstanding tax titles, mortgages, liens, rights of tenants and parties in possession, unpaid taxes, municipal liens and other public taxes, assessments or liens, having priority over the mortgage described herein, if any.

In the event that the successful bidder at the foreclosure sale shall default in purchasing the within described property according to the terms of this Notice of Sale and/or other terms of the Memorandum of Sale executed at the time of the foreclosure, the Mortgagee reserves the right to sell the property by Foreclosure Deed to the second highest bidder provided that the second highest bidder shall deposit with the

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.
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Present Holder of said Mortgage

By:
Blaise P. Berthiaume, its Attorney
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Are You Still Planning to Retire Early?

Have your retirement plans changed because of COVID-19? If so, you have plenty of company. Nearly 40 percent of those planning to retire say the pandemic has disrupted their intentions, according to the Edward Jones/Age Wave Four Pillars of the New Retirement study. You might have been thinking about retiring early – can you still do so?

Even without a crisis, it's not a bad idea to review your important life goals from time to time. So, in thinking about the possibility of early retirement, consider these factors:

Your retirement lifestyle – Your ability to retire early depends somewhat on what sort of lifestyle you're anticipating during your retirement years. If you think you'll be traveling extensively or pursuing expensive activities, you might not be able to afford to retire as early as someone with more modest ambitions. Of course, there's no "right" or "wrong" way of living in retirement – we all have our own dreams and preferences. But be aware that different lifestyles do carry different price tags – and have different effects on when you can retire securely.

Sources of retirement income – Obviously, a key factor in knowing whether you can retire early is the amount of retirement income you can rely on. So, you'll have to assess all your sources: Social Security, any other pensions you might receive, and your investment portfolio, including your 401(k) and IRA. The amounts you receive from these sources will depend on a variety of factors.

For Social Security, the longer you wait until collecting, the larger your monthly payments (although they will "top out" when you reach 70, excluding cost-of-living adjustments). In regard to your investments and retirement accounts, you'll need to establish a withdrawal rate that's appropriate for the length of time you expect to be retired. So, by adjusting these variables – taking Social Security earlier or later, taking more or less money from your retirement accounts – you can help determine if the retirement date you had in mind is viable.

Your feelings about work – Your goals are not static – they can change in response to any number of reasons, both external and personal. When you first decided you wanted to retire early, you might have been motivated by, among other things, a weariness of your current job. But has that changed over time? Have you found new challenges that interest you at work? Or, if you were forced by the pandemic to work remotely, did you actually enjoy the arrangement and want to continue it?

After all, many employers have found that their workers can be just as productive working at home, so, even when we've gotten past COVID-19, we might see a sizable shift in the geography of the workplace. In any case, if your feelings about work have changed in some way, leading you to think you could work longer than originally planned, you'd likely gain some financial advantages. You'd make more money, for starters, but you'd also keep building your 401(k) and IRA, and you could even possibly delay taking Social Security.

The pandemic may lead to a reevaluation of many financial goals – and taking early retirement might be one of them. By thinking carefully about your situation and your options, you can come up with a course of action that's right for you.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.



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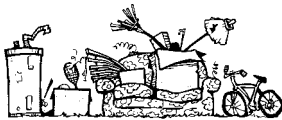
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TOWN OF WILBRAHAM P/T Emergency Dispatcher & P/T Recording Secretary. Looking for a reliable P/T Emergency Dispatcher & P/T Recording Secretary. For application and more information please visit www.wilbraham-ma.gov. Application deadline 12/31/20. EOE

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ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

FOR RENT

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development " HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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HILLTOWNS – **MONDAY AT NOON**

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Base Price \$26.00
21 Base Price \$26.50	22 Base Price \$27.00	23 Base Price \$27.50	24 Base Price \$28.00
25 Base Price \$28.50	26 Base Price \$29.00	27 Base Price \$29.50	28 Base Price \$30.00
29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
37 Base Price \$34.50	38 Base Price \$35.00	39 Base Price \$35.50	40 Base Price \$36.00

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Card #: _____ Exp. Date _____ CVV _____

Amount of charge: _____ Date: _____

First ZONE base price _____ Includes additional words

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Santa at Turley, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069
or call 413-283-8393 or email: ar@turley.com,
(Subject: Santa) for immediate assistance.

Quantities are limited. Turley Publications reserves the right to end offer at any time. Payment will be returned if offer expires due to limited quantity being sold out or multiple names per letter. Sales are based on a first come first serve basis.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

E-mail items to mharrison@turley.com or mail to Calendar Editor, Journal Register, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, for receipt by Monday of week for publication.

Editor's note: Due to the coronavirus pandemic, events featured in the Journal Register, including those previewed in stories, briefs and on the calendar page, may be canceled with little notice. The Journal Register encourages readers to contact event coordinators and organizers for updated event times. Have an event to promote? Email the information (in a Word doc or as email text – no PDFs, please – to mharrison@turley.com.

NOW

SANTA STORY AND MUSIC: Hitchcock Free Academy, 2 Brookfield Road in Brimfield, invites the public to hear Santa read “’Twas The Night Before Christmas” and enjoy musical performances outdoors from Hitchcock’s second floor balcony 3-7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12, and 1-5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13. Free. For more information, including a complete list of other upcoming activities, call 413-245-9977 or go to hitchcockacademy.org.

VIRTUAL HOLIDAY BAZAAR: Friends of the Monson Free Library is holding a virtual holiday bazaar for the month of December. The work of four local artists will be for sale: Maureen Solomon, potter, painter and jewelry designer; Tod Beall, stained glass artist; Peter Mayberry, metal artist; and Penny Lewis, fiber artist and quilter. Ten percent of all sales will be donated to the Friends of the Monson Free Library. For more information go to monsonlibrary.com/friends-of-the-library or email friends.monsonfreelibrary@gmail.com.

CHRISTMAS TREE SALE: Boy Scout Troop 7 is selling trees and wreaths at First Congregational church of Brimfield 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Dec. 13-14 and weekdays 4-6 p.m. (or whenever the lights are on and the fire is burning!)

SOON

MAKE YOUR OWN CENTERPIECE: AT 6:30 p.m. Dec. 16, artist Anna Ozolins will host the class at Hitchcock Free Academy, 2 Brookfield Road in Brimfield. The cost is \$15. Bring your own container. HFA will provide an assortment of seasonal greens. Bring any decorative accent(s) you wish to include in your centerpiece. For more information, including a complete list of activities, call 413-245-9977 or go to hitchcockacademy.org.

PALMER LIBRARY UPCOMING VIRTUAL EVENTS:

Palmer Public Library Virtual Reader’s Circle - Wednesday, Dec. 16 6-7 p.m. Join the new monthly all-genres Virtual Reader’s Circle! Have you read a great book that you want to share with others? Are you looking for new book or author recommendations? Join us for this brand new, all genres welcome, informal, friendly virtual monthly book discussion meet-up via Zoom! To register, please visit our calendar at: www.palmerlibrary.org/events

Palmer Public Library Virtual Cookbook Club - Thursday, Dec. 17 6-7 p.m.

Do you love to cook or bake and talk about food? Join our new monthly online cookbook club to learn and share recipes! Pick a recipe from your favorite cookbook, place a hold on a cookbook from our catalog for curbside pickup, or download one from our digital catalog. Make the recipe, and then chat via Zoom with others about how it turned out. Have fun while sharing and discovering recipes and cooking tips! To register, please visit our calendar at: www.palmerlibrary.org/events.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA: At noon on Dec. 19, Wreaths Across America will be at Holland Cemetery to remember and honor U.S. veterans through the laying

of Remembrance Wreaths on the graves of our country’s fallen heroes and the act of saying the name of each and every veteran aloud.

If you would like to volunteer to participate in the wreath laying ceremony and/or become a sponsor, go to the “Wreaths Across America – Holland Cemetery” page on Facebook, where you will see links to help you become a sponsor, invite friends or more. You can also visit wreathscrossamerica.org for more information.

CRAFTING AND CARD-MAKING: Tuesdays through Thursdays from noon to 8 p.m. and Fridays from noon to 6 p.m. until Dec. 23 at Hitchcock Free Academy, 2 Brookfield Road in Brimfield. For more information, including a complete list of activities, call 413-245-9977 or go to hitchcockacademy.org.

The Palmer Master Plan Steering Committee is holding a series of forums you can participate in on M-PACT channel 15, Facebook Live and Zoom. These will all start at 6:30pm. The schedule is as follows:

Dec. 17: The fifth interactive forum focuses on the element of climate adaptation and sustainability. Leveraging the town’s Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Plan, this element will look at the Town’s climate projections and vulnerability analysis to comprehensively address future climate change through methods of resiliency.

Jan. 28: The focus is on natural resources, open space and recreation. Referencing the town’s certified Open Space and Recreation Plan from 2015, this element will expand upon that plan’s contents to address needs in consideration of projected population trends. An important aspect of this element will be weighing the trade-offs between various land uses and competing demands.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact Town Planner Linda Leduc at lleduc@townofpalmer.com or 283-2605.

INTERESTS

THE QUABOAG VALLEY QUILTERS GUILD is looking for new members. The Guild meets on the first, third and fifth Thursdays of the month at 1 p.m. in the basement of the Palmer Historical and Cultural Center, 2072 Main St., Three Rivers. The Guild is a no pressure group with varying degrees of accomplishments, from novice to Big E “Best In Show” winners. The membership fee is \$48 a year. For more information, contact Barbara Beaulieu at 267-4044 or Merry Mombourquette at 283-7577. Follow us on Facebook.

MONSON WOODWACKERS wood carving club meets every Thursday at Monson Senior Center on Main Street in Monson from 6-8 p.m. The club meets throughout the year. Membership is \$10 for the year, payable in September. Anyone interested should call Barbara Mackintosh at 413-237-8303. There are many beginner projects and experienced teachers, as well, within the club.

STAINED GLASS MAKING CLASS will be held on Thursdays at the Holland Community Center from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. or 6-9 p.m. Glass and tools are supplied. Take six classes for \$48. Class sizes are limited and are open to all ages. For more information call Tom Baltazar at 508-245-2525.

DIAMOND NATIONAL/CASCADES DIAMOND. Did you every work there? Former employees meet on the third Tuesday of every month at Burgundy Brook Restaurant on Route 181 in Palmer from 9-10 a.m. The stories shared are often colorful but old friendships are renewed.

ONGOING

KEEP HOMESTEAD MUSEUM at 35 Ely Rd., Monson is closed for winter. There will be no meeting, tours or programs. It will tentatively re-open on Sunday, April 11, 2021. Nature trails are open daily until dusk for hiking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. Trail maps can be found in the parking lot. The Phillips Sculpture Garden is open year-round (handouts in box on one of the sign posts). For more information call 413-267-4137, email khn@keephomesteadmuseum.org or visit www.keephomesteadmuseum.org.

LEARN ABOUT LOCAL HISTORY: Want to learn more about local history? The Elbow Plantation Historical Society is available for research and other information. They can be reached at elbowplantation@gmail.com. Send them your questions and comments and leave your preferred contact information and they will respond asap.

THE MONSON LIONS CLUB has a 20-foot x 20-foot tent for rent. The cost is \$75 for a two-day event. The club will put it up and take it down. For more details, contact Curt at 413-668-6653.

DAY SPRING LODGE A.F. & A.M. located 14 Bliss St., Monson is making its hall available for rent for \$75 for a variety of parties and functions. For reservations,, call Doug Battige at 413-267-5855 or 413-265-9398.


RESERVE YOUR CELEBRATION TENT now for your First Communion, bridal and baby showers, graduation parties, family reunions, birthday parties or any other kind of celebration you may have outdoors. The Palmer Lions Club has a tent for you, either 20-feet x 20-feet for \$125 or 20-feet x 40-feet for \$200. This includes setup and takedown in the Palmer area. Call Karen at 413-813-8445 to make a

reservation. You may need to leave a message and your call will be returned. The Palmer Lions Club tent rental fees go towards assistance for the people of Palmer, Bondsville, Three Rivers and Thorndike.

PALMER SALVATION ARMY Service Extension Unit offers residents in Palmer and Brimfield emergency assistance on a periodic basis. The outreach coordinator will be located on the second floor of St. Paul’s Unitarian Universalist Church at 1060 Central St., Palmer. You must schedule an appointment by calling 413-221-8283 so you know what documentation to bring since those seeking assistance have to meet certain criteria and show proof of need. Please leave your name, number and the date you called. Phone messages are checked weekly, not daily.

BOOKSTORE at the Unitarian Universalist Parish of Monson at the corner of Lincoln and Main streets in Monson is open the first Friday of every month from 5:30-7:30 p.m., the third Saturday of every month from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Books priced from 25 cents to \$1 each: fiction, nonfiction, thrillers, horror, mystery, science fiction, how-to, classic literature, children’s books, romances, cookbooks, gardening books and more. All proceeds benefit the parish. Donations are accepted. Call Mary at 267-0033 for more information.


MARTHA’S TABLE STAFF at the Monson-Glendale United Methodist Church is supporting the Monson Open Pantry by providing a meal once a month to anyone who will bring a non-perishable food item. Staff have begun packing and delivering the meals in cooperation with the Monson Senior Center. The meal is served at the church, 162 Main St., Monson on the third Saturday of each month from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. For more information call 267-3798.



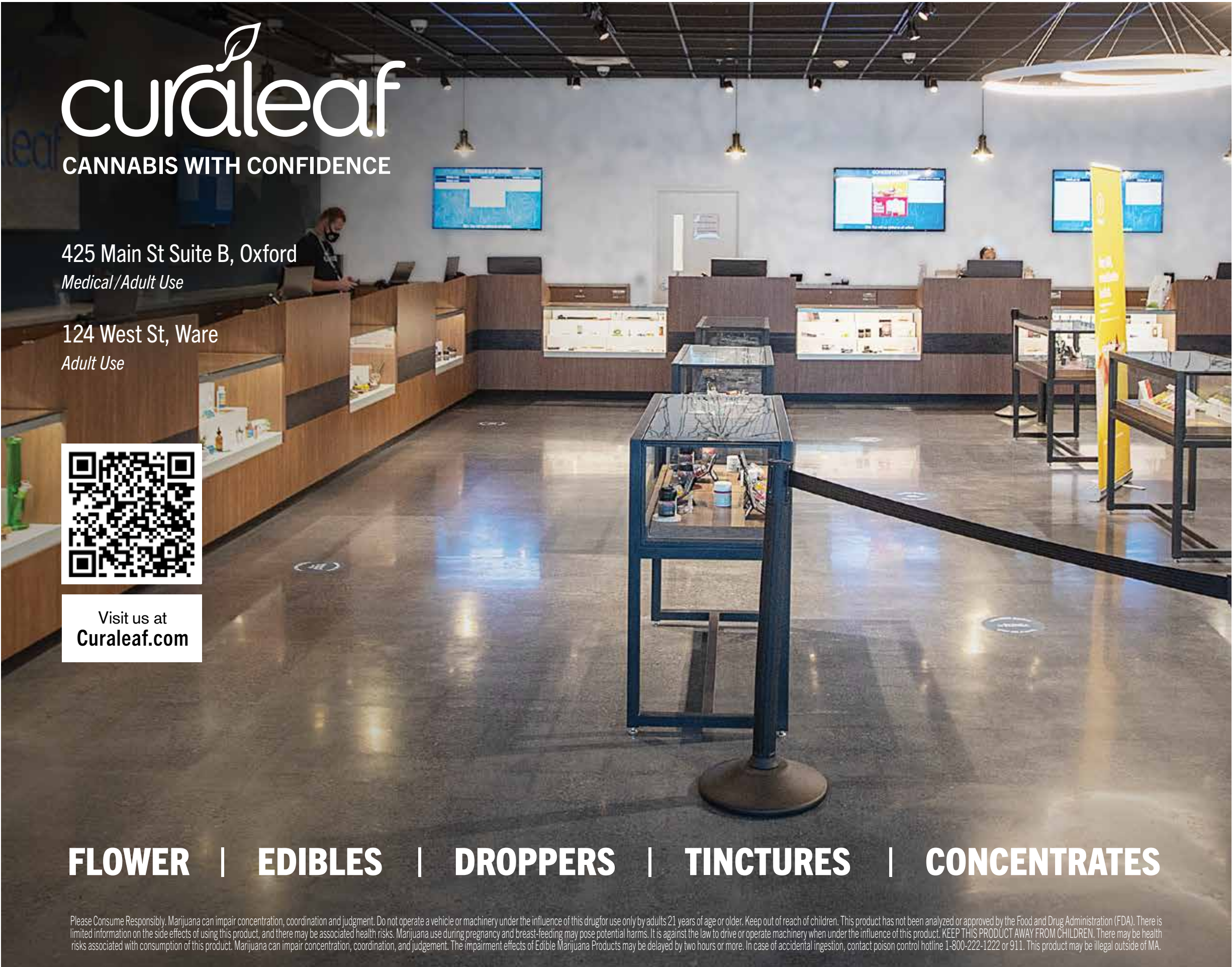
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